



Northwest Training & Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS):

***Update for:
Olympic Coast National Marine
Sanctuary Advisory Council***

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Goals of the NWTT EIS



- Support Navy at-sea training and testing requirements in the Northwest for 2015 – 2020
- Consolidate and reassess environmental impacts of 3 previous EISs: Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS, NUWC Keyport Range Complex Extension EIS, and Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility (SEAFAC) EIS, and also address:
 - Existing training and testing not previously addressed in environmental planning documents or permits
 - Adjustments to training and testing activities associated with potential force structure changes, new systems, and new mission requirements
- Support reauthorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endanger Species Act (current authorizations expire Nov 2015)
- Comply with other regulations, policies and Executive Orders



NWTT EIS Alternatives



No Action Alternative: Current baseline training and testing activities, as defined by existing Navy environmental planning documents

Alternative 1: Includes No Action Alternative, plus resumption of testing activities at the Carr Inlet Operations Area, and addresses new activities and adjustments to levels of activities from the baseline (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative 2: Consists of Alternative 1 plus additional increases in the tempo of certain training and testing activities



NWTT EIS Study Area

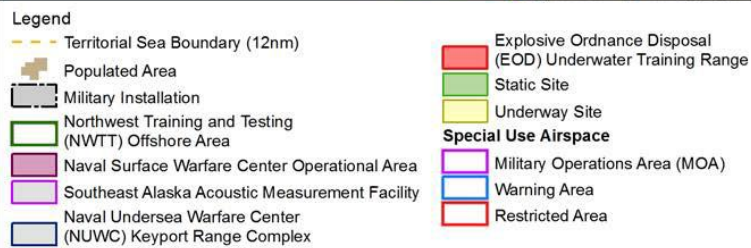


The NWTT EIS Study Area includes:

- **Existing ranges and facilities:**
 - Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC)
 - Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Keyport Range Complex
 - Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility (SEAFAC)
 - Carr Inlet Operations Area
- **Navy pierside locations:**
 - Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton & Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
 - Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor
 - Naval Station Everett



1. Inland Waters Area
2. Offshore Area
3. SEAFAC





Navy Activities in OCNMS



- NWTT EIS/OEIS (2015-2020) - No changes to proposed activities from current training and testing activities analyzed in NWTRC EIS or NUWC Keyport Range Complex Extension EIS
- As authorized by OCNMS regulations, current training and testing within sanctuary potentially includes:
 - Fleet training with various sonar systems
 - Aircraft training and testing overflights in Warning Area 237 (W-237) and Olympic Military Operations Areas (MOAs) above authorized flight levels
 - Testing activities within Quinault Range Site
- With completion of NWTRC and Keyport EISs in 2010 and 2011, more detailed tracking and reporting of Navy activities is required:
 - Annual reports of training & testing submitted to NMFS
 - For 2011-2013 no training or testing with active sonar was conducted in OCNMS
 - Normal training use of airspace in W-237 & Olympic MOAs overlaying OCNMS occurred as permitted
 - Training with explosive munitions does not occur in OCNMS



NWTT EIS Schedule



Action	Date
Publish NOI in Federal Register	27 Feb 2012
Scoping Period	27 Feb – 27 Apr 2012
Release Draft EIS for review & comments	24 Jan – 15 Apr 2014
Conduct meetings & consultations	Feb 2014 – Jun 2015
Revise analysis & address comments	Apr 2014 – Jul 2015
Release Final EIS	Jul 2015
Record of Decision	Oct 2015



Navy Marine Species Monitoring in the NW



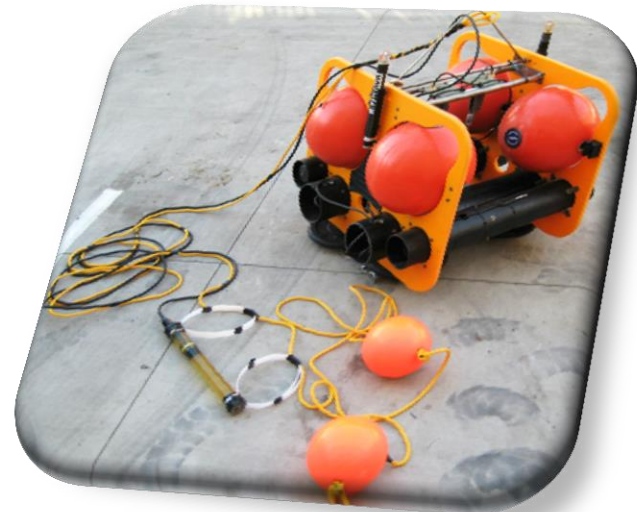
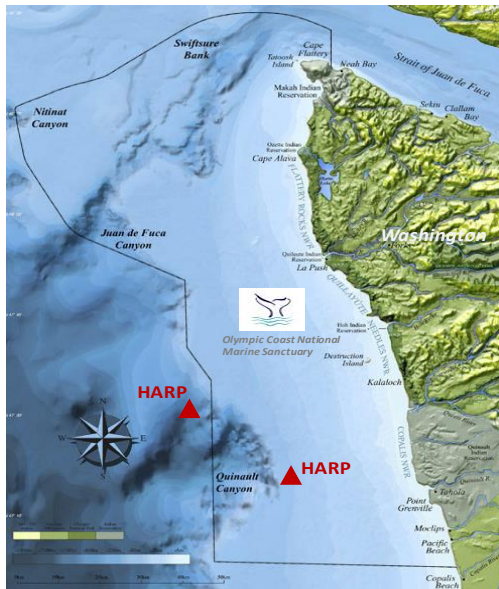
- Projects and objectives developed in cooperation with NMFS Office of Protected Resources to assist with Navy compliance monitoring
- Current projects (2011-2014):
 - Passive acoustic monitoring
 - Satellite tag tracking for cetaceans
- Future projects (starting in 2015):
 - Blue and fin whale satellite tagging
 - Modeling distribution of Southern Resident killer whales



Passive Acoustic Monitoring



- 2 high-frequency acoustic recording packages (HARP) deployed since 2004: 1 in OCNMS off Cape Elizabeth, 1 near Quinault Canyon just outside OCNMS
- Performer: Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- Species commonly detected include: blue whale, fin whale, gray whale, humpback whale, sperm whale, killer whales, Risso's dolphin, Pacific white-sided dolphin





Satellite Tag Tracking for Cetaceans



- Fall 2012: 11 Pacific Coast Feeding Group gray whales tagged to determine overall movement patterns within Pacific Northwest:
 - Performer: Oregon State University
 - Tags can transmit up to 350 days
 - Results confirm collectively PCFG's had very strong preference for shallow, near-shore habitat and never ventured far from shore (rarely more than 10 nm from shore)
- 2012-2013: 11 fin whales, 5 humpback whales, 5 gray whales, 2 killer whales (offshore stock) tagged:
 - Performer: Cascadia Research Collective
 - Average attached tag duration: 19 days



Future Monitoring Projects



- Blue and fin whale satellite tagging:
 - Objectives: Satellite tag tracking of blue and fin whales along US West Coast including Navy training areas. Goal to compare long-term (up to a year) individual movement patterns and determine metrics of residence time in particular subareas
- Modeling distribution of southern resident killer whales in the pacific northwest:
 - New project with Navy funding to NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (Brad Hanson); applicable to offshore coastal waters (not Puget Sound)
 - Passive acoustic data and satellite tag tracks for SRKW to derive spatial offshore distribution (seasonal and annual probability of occurrence maps)



Additional Navy Funded Projects



Office of Naval Research Marine Mammals and Biology Program Projects:

- Factors Influencing the Acoustic Behavior and Nearshore Residence of the Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) along their Migration Route (2010-2011 *Oregon State University*)
- Improved Satellite-Monitored Radio Tags for Large Whales: Dependable ARGOS Location-Only Tags and a GPS-Linked Tag to Reveal 3-Dimensional Body-Orientation and Surface Movements (2009-2012 *Oregon State University*)
- Passive Autonomous Acoustic Monitoring of Marine Mammals:
 - System Development Using Seaglider™ (2011-2014 *University of Washington, Applied Physics Laboratory*)
 - Acoustically-Equipped Ocean Gliders for Environmental and Oceanographic Research (2012-2014 *Oregon State University*)



Navy Reports

Specific Navy monitoring and associated technical reports for Pacific-wide and Northwest efforts available at:

<http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/reading-room/pacific/>





Questions & Discussion?